



Marines West

Serving the recruiting family of the 12th Marine Corps District

April 2006

Volume 21, No 4





Photos by Sgt. T.L. Carter-Valrie Photo Illustration by Sgt. C.R. Rye
 Recruiting Station Salt Lake City poolees participated in statewide pool function April 8 at Fort Douglas. The poolees were then divided into two groups and sent to perform skills at seven different stations, which consisted of the ISMT, a rock-climbing wall, memory skills games, Marine Corps Martial Arts Program demonstration, obstacle course and the moment of truth.
 Back cover Photo Illustration by Sgt. C.R. Rye



Command Group

Commanding Officer.....Col. A. J. Corbett
 Executive Officer.....LtCol. F. R. Motley
 Sergeant Major.....SgtMaj. B. B. Woods

Public Affairs Office

Public Affairs Officer.....Capt. C. M. Nelson
 Public Affairs Chief.....SSgt. J. D. Cress
 Editor.....Sgt. R.E. Jones Sr.
 Imagery Chief.....Sgt. C. H. Fitzgerald
 Combat Cameraman.....Sgt. C.R. Rye

Marketing and Public Affairs Marines

RS Los Angeles.....SSgt. B. J. Bryant
 RS Orange County.....Sgt. M. T. Lowry
 RS Portland.....Sgt. L. Langston
 RS Sacramento.....Sgt. K. N. Leach
 RS Salt Lake City.....Sgt. T. L. Carter-Valrie
 RS San Diego.....SSgt. V. A. Martinez
 RS San Francisco.....Sgt. C. C. Odom
 RS Seattle.....Sgt. P. Chau

Marines West is an authorized publication paid for by appropriated funds for the 12th MCD, 3704 Hochmuth Ave., San Diego, CA 92140, commercial telephone number (619) 542-5524. Marines West is published for informational purposes only and is not directive in nature. Contents of Marines West are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, the Department of the Navy or the U.S. Marine Corps.

Features

- 4 School library named in honor of Marine alumnus
- 5 Marines win villagers' trust
- 6 One weekend One obstacle One question
 Can you make it in Crucible Challenge
- 8 Marines present NROTC Scholarships
- 9 Navy Chaplain supports Marine recruiting
- 10 Marines distribute food to Nigerien poor
- 11 Poolees take aim at Fort Douglas ISMT
- 12 Hometown Heroes
- 13 Educators make Vacaville recruiter honoary wildcat

Commander's Column

- 3 Team 12 Builds Momentum For
 A Very Successful Spring
- 15 Top RSSs, Top Recruiters
 Heavy Hitters, Awards
 Promotions, Reenlistments

2006 **March**

**Transitional
Recruiting**

Monthly Mission:

Direct Assignment Program -13
 Direct Referral -40
 Active Reserve -11
 Monthly Attained:

Direct Assignment Program -13
 Direct Referral -40
 Active Reserve -11
 Fiscal Year To Date:

Total # of Marines Briefed
 -2,102



Commander's Column

TEAM 12 BUILDS MOMENTUM FOR A VERY SUCCESSFUL SPRING

Team 12,

Congratulations on a superb March. We got off to a slow start but finished strong by closing out mission one day early. Prospecting levels were solid for the month and allowed us to close mission and prep for the difficult month of April. With only 20 processing days in April we need to come out of the starting blocks sprinting to achieve both our contracting and shipping missions. With the quality Marines within this District, we will no doubt overcome the challenges ahead. My thanks to all Marines in the District for their loyalty, perseverance, dedication, and hard work.

March is a very special month for the Marine Corps Recruiting Service because it's the month we celebrate our career recruiters being made a primary MOS. Since the late 1970s our career recruiters only had the additional MOS of 8412. On 12 March 1992, the Commandant of the Marine Corps officially changed the 8412 MOS to a primary one. This was a significant milestone for the fledgling Marine Corps Recruiting Command because it recognized the invaluable contributions that our career recruiters provide.

By 1992 the Marine Corps was ready to step up and recognize that we needed a permanent career recruiter structure and the promotion pipeline that comes with having a primary 8412 MOS. The primary MOS designation improved the overall quality of our career recruiter force. This change caused MCRC to start accepting

only the most highly qualified recruiters who demonstrated the sales skill and leadership experience necessary to ensure continued success for Marine Corps recruiting.

A Marine's commitment to finish his career on recruiting duty provides the following tangible benefits to the command and for all Marines assigned to recruiting: ability to consistently make mission; effective use of systematic recruiting; leading and training new Marines assigned to recruiting; advising, training, and supporting command elements and SNCOICs; and stability and continuity within the command. So to all our truly outstanding career recruiters in Team 12, I say to you, "Thank you for all that you do. You have made Team 12 the success story it is. Keep your standards high and continue to excel."

We are half way through FMAM and building momentum for a very successful spring. Our objective is to fill our remaining shipping holes for FY06 and make significant progress on filling the first trimester of FY07 by component and category. Extra points are available for band contracts, so let us all make a concerted effort to fill out our MEOP ranks.

I would be remiss if I didn't thank all the great Marines out in the recruiting substations and the support Marines at both the RS and District headquarters. Each and every one of you plays a vital role in the big machine we call Team 12. It takes all of us, doing our daily tasks to the utmost of our ability, to make all the



gears and pieces function smoothly so that the end result is shipping motivated recruits that are prepared and endowed with a burning desire to earn the title Marine. I've got to tell you, it's a well-oiled, high RPM machine! Yet we're able to keep up the maintenance with training and inspections to ensure we never have a break down. Sitting up here in the driver's seat is easy because you all operate so smoothly and efficiently. Thanks again for making Team 12 the best in the Nation.

Good luck out there, be safe, and most of all, take care of your families and each other.

Semper Fi,

School library named in honor of Marine alumnus



Sgt. M. Trent Lowry

Recruiting Station Orange County

COMPTON, Calif. — The library of Centennial High School is now named the Pfc. James Anderson, Jr. Memorial Library, in honor of a Marine who attended the school in the 1960's and was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor, at a ceremony held at the school March 3.

Just three days past the 39th anniversary of Anderson's death — in combat in the Cam Lo province of Vietnam, killed while performing heroic actions that merited the Medal of Honor in the same halls that Anderson had walked as a student were full of current high schoolers, many of whom had never heard of Anderson, headed to the ceremony in his honor.

"It's remarkable what he did," said Joel Navarro, 17, senior class president at Centennial High. "It's an honor to be involved in the dedication ceremony. Now every student can know who [Anderson] was and what he did."

While Anderson's deeds have been recognized in different places, from a local park named after the Marine to the dining facility aboard Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, bearing his name, it took a

long time for Anderson's high school alma mater to recognize him officially.

"I think this is a great thing to do, and should have been done a long time ago," said Hosea White, a guest at the ceremony and vice president of the Los Angeles chapter of the Montford Point Marine Association. "This is the type of individual who deserves some recognition. There are only eight Medal of Honor recipients from L.A. county, so you see it's unique when you come across a Medal of Honor recipient."

Anderson has the distinction of being the first African-American to be awarded the Medal of Honor, significant when considering the number of Blacks who had served in the nation's battles, including the Montford Point Marines, who were the first African-American Marines, trained at Montford Point, N.C., from 1942 to 1949.

While the school already had a shadowbox with medals and a biography of Anderson, it had been sitting in a corner gathering dust for years, according to Gary Moskowitz, audio visual specialist at the school's library. Coming across the shadowbox prompted Moskowitz to propose dedicating a school facility in Anderson's name, and the school board supported the idea.



Photo by Sgt. M. Trent Lowry

(Left) A display honoring Pfc. James Anderson Jr. is presented in the library at Centennial High School in Compton, Calif., Mar. 3 during a ceremony to dedicate the library in Anderson's name. (Above) A plaque dedicating the library at Centennial High School in Compton, Calif., as the Pfc. James Anderson, Jr. Memorial Library is presented as a color guard from Recruiting Substation The City renders honors.

Sidebar:

Anderson's Medal of Honor citation

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as a rifleman, Second Platoon, Company F, Second Battalion, Third Marines, Third Marine Division, in Vietnam on 28 February 1967. Company F was advancing in dense jungle northwest of Cam Lo in an effort to extract a heavily besieged reconnaissance patrol. Private First Class Anderson's platoon was the lead element and had advanced only about 200 meters when they were brought under extremely intense enemy small arms and automatic weapons fire. The platoon reacted swiftly, getting on line as best they could in the thick terrain, and began returning fire. Private First Class Anderson found himself tightly bunched together with the other members of the

continued on page 14 ...

Marines win villagers' trust

Sgt. Joe Lindsay

Task Force Lava Public Affairs

RECHAH LAM, Afghanistan — The primary mission of 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment is to track down insurgents and render their operations ineffective.

But another mission is to ensure villagers are afforded the opportunity to live in peace — so that farmers can farm, shop owners can sell their wares, and children, including girls, can attend school without fear of retribution.

The Lava Dogs, as the 1/3 Marines are known, took on these missions after arriving in eastern Afghanistan from Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, about three months ago. Their investment in Afghans' lives has paid huge dividends in trust and in intelligence-gathering, which has led to further victories on the battlefield, said Staff Sgt. James Robertson, section leader of the battalion's combined anti-armor team.

"Going to villages, meeting with elders and showing our support to villagers has been something we have done since Day 1, and is something we will continue to do as long as we are here," said Powell, of Portland, Ore. This show of support to the villagers of Afghanistan was evident on a recent mission to the tiny village of Rechah Lam, in Kunar Province.

"We get out to Rechah Lam as much as possible, because for some reason that village has been a place where the insurgents think they can control the villagers through intimidation and threats," Robertson said. "An [Afghan National Police] outpost near Rechah Lam was attacked by insurgents, and we headed out there immediately.

"The village elders informed us that members of the Taliban had been in the village the day before, threatening to kill villagers who allowed girls to attend school," Robertson continued. "We came back and brought school supplies for those girls and, as a result of our continuous show of force and support, the Taliban have not been back since, and those little girls are getting the education they so desperately need."

Besides school supplies, the Lava



Photo by Sgt. Joe Lindsay

Staff Sgt. Andrew Giermann takes an Afghan boy's hand during a recent visit to this village in Kunar Province. Giermann, of the Scout Sniper Platoon of the 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, joined other Marines in giving out food, blankets, clothing and toys.

Dogs also gave out winter clothing, shoes, blankets and basic food staples. Navy corpsmen provided medical check-ups, with an emphasis on providing care for children, said Marine 1st Lt. Carl DeSantis, the distributed-operations platoon commander.

"Rechah Lam, in particular, has been getting a lot of pressure from the Taliban to shut down the girls' school," DeSantis said. "We are not going to let that happen. All children deserve an education. The insurgents are steadfast against girls receiving any type of schooling. This is the type of enemy we face, an enemy that

wants to keep the people enslaved both mentally and physically."

Ensuring that schools, including girls' schools, are left free to operate is an important element in the war on terrorism, said DeSantis, of Reno, Nev.

"In my opinion, the people we really need to concentrate on are the children," he said. "They are the least biased, and they are not set in their ways as much. They haven't lived through the Russian war, and they are going to be either the future leaders of democracy or the future fighters against it."

One weekend One obstacle C Can you make it in Crucible

SSgt. Valerie A. Martinez

Recruiting Station San Diego

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.

—Two days, six hours of sleep, 81 teams, 11 gut wrenching events and a handful of smiling drill instructors to tuck you in at night.

Not exactly how some high school juniors and seniors would choose to spend their weekend. But more than 300 of them from Southern California and Las Vegas chose to rise and shine to the soothing sound of a drill instructor's voice for a chance to compete in Recruiting Station San Diego's Crucible Challenge.

The fourth annual event — themed “One weekend. One obstacle. One question ... Can you make it?” — was held aboard Weapons and Field Training Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., and gave students a small dose of what recruits experience during recruit training.

The evolution began early Friday evening as the students flocked to their temporary living quarters — the squad bays aboard WFTBN. Escorted by their school's recruiter, the teams of four were issued the gear they would need to survive the next two days, assigned racks and ordered into a formation.

“The three hundred or so of you who are out here today are different,” said Maj. John E. McDonough, commanding officer of RS San Diego. “You saw the posters we put up in your high schools and decided to challenge yourself, to stand out above your peers. You made the decision to come out here knowing you were only going to get a couple of hours of sleep and that you were going to have to work hard and push yourself.

“From the moment you walk out on that course to the moment you walk off, make sure you give it everything you've got to end up in that winner's circle,” added McDonough.

In the cold, wet night, several highly motivated drill instructors were let loose to take charge of the formation and indoctrinate the students into life as a recruit. Learning how to respond to commands, the importance of working expediently and effectively and teamwork were all things the students quickly found were



critical to getting through the next hour.

Jeri T. Stewart, a sophomore at Valley View High School in Moreno Valley, said the first moment the drill instructors came running out “was pretty scary.”

“I expected a lot of yelling,” she added, “but luckily they were yelling at other people a lot more than they were yelling at me.”

A friendly wake up call by the drill instructors early Saturday morning got the startled, sleepy-eyed students up and moving toward the 10 obstacles and newly incorporated ‘House of Pain’ they would have to endure for first, second and third place honors.

The 81 teams were broken into relays and sent on a path to complete each event, two of which were events recruits participate in during the actual Crucible. From push-ups, pull-ups and a chair carry to racing through the Inflatable Obstacle Course, Weaver and Rope Bridge, the students tested their physical and mental courage while learning to work as a team.

Eighteen-year-old Anya M. Pumphrey said she wasn't so sure she would have fun because the event would be so physically challenging.

“Before I came out here I was lazy and didn't think I could push myself that hard,” added the Lake Elsinore High School senior. “But once I started working with my team they really pumped me up and got me motivated. This experience made me realize I really enjoy

One question... The Challenge



(Bottom) During the resupply event, the teams of four were required to carry ammunition cans and dummies to earn points toward their total score. **(Silhouette)** After conducting revile and the morning basic daily routine at 4 a.m. and marching 300 sleepy high school students to chow, the drill instructors that participated in this year's Crucible Challenge await further instructions. **(Far Left)** A highly motivated drill instructor keeps the formation covered, aligned and quiet before the start of the Crucible Challenge events. **(Left Top)** Participants in the Crucible Challenge are timed as they race through the Inflatable Obstacle Course. The event was of 11 designed to test their mental and physical toughness. **(Top Right)** In this year's newest event, the 'House of Pain,' a student attempts to do star jumps to earn his team points. The fourth annual event – themed "One weekend. One obstacle. One question ... Can you make it?" – was held aboard Weapons and Field Training Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Photos by SSgt. Valerie A. Martinez

challenging myself."

In addition to the Crucible Challenge events were several static displays including an Assault Amphibian Vehicle provided by Echo Company, 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion, a howitzer provided by 11th Marines, and an Interim Fast Attack Vehicle and a parachute, scuba and weapons display provided by I Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group.

"This is awesome," added Pumphrey. "I have never seen any real military equipment before. It gave me a realistic view of the Marines

and the different types of equipment and machinery they use."

Despite the showery forecast, Gunnery Sgt. Charles Melvin, field commander for Recruiting Substation Oceanside, said the kids were motivated and ready to meet the two-day challenge.

"I heard a lot of kids talking about how excited they were to be here and how ready they were to do this even with the rain," added Melvin. "They knew they were going to come out here and work with the Marines so they were going to have to step it up."

Marines present NROTC Scholarships

Students earn thousands in college money

SSgt. Bobbie J. Bryant

Recruiting Station Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES — Spring is here and that means it is that time again where hundreds of recruiters get their dress blues out of the cleaners and polish the brass to attend high school award ceremonies across the country. Hundreds of thousands of awards are presented to stellar students for exceptional athletics, scholastics, musical excellence and the rare presentation of the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps Scholarship.

This year, Recruiting Station Los Angeles will award six recipients a giant check for the NROTC Scholarship in front of their schools and parents. They were selected through a highly competitive national selection process and will receive full tuition, books, fees and other financial benefits at some of the country's leading colleges.

Even though the opportunity is great for the students, the program is also important to a recruiter.

The NROTC Scholarship Program is important for three reasons, according to Capt Christopher M. Wilsey, RS executive officer and operations chief.

"It demonstrates to school faculty that recruiters are genuinely interested in promoting higher education... just like the school is. If correctly done it should give a recruiter exposure to a quality market of applicants for both scholarship and enlisted purposes.

"Also, the scholarship recipient becomes a fantastic proof source of pride for a high school, which will in turn keep the doors of goodwill open to the recruiter as he does his normal high school activities," Wilsey said.

Once recruiters understand how the program can assist them with their goals they can concentrate on where to start the search for qualified students.

"Recruiters should look for applicants that are mentally and physically qualified for the program: lettered athletes, student leaders, JROTC cadets, and Eagle Scouts are all good places to start looking individuals," said Wilsey who is from Atlanta. "Unlike other scholarships, the Marine NROTC scholarship looks for diverse, well rounded individuals with outstanding physical, mental, moral and leadership traits all of which are prerequisites for successful scholarship submissions."

After a recruiter has identified and screened a potential applicant for the program, he needs to explain how the program can benefit the student.

Some key selling points on the program is the student can earn two prized titles at once – college graduate and United States Marine. In addition to the benefits mentioned above, they will also receive a stipend for text books, monthly substance allowance, may select from 130 colleges to attend and upon graduation they are guaranteed employment as an officer in the United States Marine Corps.

"They can try the program out for 1 year," Wilsey said. "After their freshman year they can decide to drop the program for any reason and own no reimbursement to the government."



Photo by Sgt. Robert E. Jones Sr.

Recruiting Station Los Angeles will award six recipients a giant check for the NROTC Scholarship in front of a their school and parents. They were selected through a highly competitive national selection process and will receive full tuition, books, fees and other financial benefits at some of the country's leading colleges.

While they are in college they will be considered Marine Option Midshipmen and will take additional naval science courses that will teach them intricacies of naval and amphibious warfare, according to the Marines.com website. They will spend their first two summers learning about the Navy and Marines. In their third summer they will spend six weeks in Quantico, Va. attending Marine Officer's Candidates School. There they will learn the self-discipline, confidence and judgment needed to become a leader of Marines.

Wilsey's personal goal this year for the RS is 20 submissions. Last year we had 37 applicants of which 17 were completed and

continued on page 14 ...

Navy Chaplain supports Marine recruiting



Photo by Sgt. Jason Wakefield

Navy Chaplain Cmdr. Fred Zoeller, a native of Columbia, S.C. says a prayer during a ceremony at Recruiting Station Seattle, Wash., July 30. Zoeller has been supporting the Marines for RS Seattle with ministry services for the past two years.

Sgt. Phuong Chau

Recruiting Station Seattle

SEATTLE — Recruiting duty is characterized by many, as one of the toughest duties the Marine Corps has to offer. It possesses many of the traits that are associated with operational missions within the Corps such as separation from family, long hours, tremendous stress, and an important mission that is vital to the defense of this great nation. As in the Fleet Marine Force, Navy Chaplains are looked

to for spiritual support and guidance.

Navy Chaplain Cmdr. Fred Zoeller, a native of Columbia, S.C., has been supporting Marine Corps Recruiting Station Seattle's ministry needs for the past two years. Having lived in Everett, Wash., since 1999, Zoeller had been on the list as a reserve Chaplain available to support the local area. Two years ago, the 22-year-veteran noticed that there wasn't anyone coordinating Chaplains' support for recruiters in Washington. Many recruiters are located far from the services

and support that has been intrinsic with military installations. He has been linking local Chaplains with Marines in need of spiritual services.

According to Zoeller, the relationship is natural because he has worked with Marines a great deal in the past. Reserve Chaplains have a particular knowledge and understanding of Marines that enable them to meet the needs of Leathernecks.

RS Seattle's Sergeant Major, Sgt. Maj. Stoner R. Taylor, a native of Steamboat Springs, Colo., believes that Zoeller is a tremendous asset that is important to the Marines here.

"He is a link to assets that aren't easily accessible to recruiters as it is in the fleet," said Taylor.

Taylor explained that Zoeller has provided a high quality of service in the areas of counseling in such areas as families, marital relationship, and grief. For example if a Marine needs ministry support in a timely manner, Zoeller can contact the Chaplain located nearest to the Marine to provide services.

Zoeller has provided a tremendous service to the Marines of RS Seattle when called upon such as recently, when a Marine suffered a tremendous loss in his life. Zoeller was able to call upon a fellow Chaplain that was able to respond within the hour. The Chaplain provided the Marine with spiritual support in a difficult time.

"The Marine Corps takes care of their own and the way the Marine Corps takes care of its spiritual needs is through the Navy Chaplain primarily," said Zoeller.

Zoeller understands the importance of what Marines do each day on recruiting duty.

"Without new Marines coming into the Corps, you can't take any hills," said Zoeller. "That is why the job of recruiters is defined as a mission just like any other mission in the Marine Corps. This means providing Chaplain support is just as essential as any operational duty."

"It is always rewarding to help people especially so if those people are isolated from their normal environment as Marine recruiters are," concluded Zoeller.

Marines distribute food to Nigerien poor

Cpl. Enrique Saenz

Marine Forces Reserve

TAHOUA, Niger — Traveling through the crowded, sandy streets of Tahoua, Niger, most people would be reminded of the Disney animated film, *Aladdin*.

Street vendors, blacksmiths and potential customers trying to haggle and barter with merchants down alleyways are found throughout the town. To some, it may seem like a scene taken directly from the movie.

But for the Marines of 3rd Platoon, E Company, 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, it seemed like an opportunity to help the indigent citizens of a third-world country in need.

The Marines are in Niger as part of Shared Accord 06, an exercise designed to bring humanitarian aid to the country while allowing an opportunity to train with Nigerien forces.

“(Shared Accord) is a great opportunity to take a few minutes a day and make a difference, no matter how small,” said Sgt. Adam L. Love, 1st squad leader for 3rd Platoon. “During an escort mission guarding our chaplain, we stopped to handout (the contents) of a (Meal, Ready-to-Eat) package to a group of people in town.”

After more townspeople caught wind of the free goodies being passed out by the Marines, a large crowd came to catch a glimpse of the visiting Americans while seeing what they had to offer.

“They were starving,” said Cpl. Dan M. McCabe, a rifleman with 3rd Platoon. “Mothers were trying to get food for themselves ahead of their kids, people almost trampled over kids. It was bad. People were fighting over a half-pack of crackers.”

Even though the Marines were told Niger was one of the poorest countries in the world, the plight of the Nigerien people didn’t strike a chord with the Marines until they were able to see it first hand, said Love.

“I wish we could spend more time and help here,” said Love, who along with the rest of the Marines, is completing their Reserve Annual Training, or AT, which usually lasts between 14



Photos by Cpl. Enrique Saenz

(Above) Nigerien children watch as Marines from 3rd Platoon, Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment pass out food to the citizens of Tahoua, Niger. The Marines are in Niger as part of exercise Shared Accord 2006, an exercise that brings humanitarian aid to Niger, while allowing bilateral U.S. and Nigerien counter-terrorism training. (Left) Nigerien children wave to a convoy of Marines about to distribute Meals, Ready to Eat (MREs) to the citizens of Tahoua, Niger. The Marines are in Niger as part of exercise Shared Accord 2006, an exercise that brings humanitarian aid to Niger, while allowing bilateral U.S. and Nigerien counter-terrorism training.



and 17 days. “Now that I see how much good could be done here, I’d look forward to doing a year tour here, if it were possible.”

But even during goodwill missions, the Marine have to remain aware of possible security risks.

“We gave food and candy to the Nigeriens, but we always remember that security comes first,” said Love. “It’s not just for our good, but for (the Nigeriens) good, too. For example, what kids like to do is climb on the sides of the humvee for a better chance at getting one of the MRE packets we throw out. Not only does that restrict our vision, to see incoming threats around us but if we were to pull out of the area, we’d hurt them, and maybe even run some of them over.”

Security is the most important part of a mission, especially humanitarian ones, said Love.

The Marines are scheduled to be in Niger until about mid-March, due to the end of their annual training.

Poolees take aim at Fort Douglas ISMT



Poolees kicked off the day with a motivating initial strength test. They were then divided into two groups and sent to perform skills at seven different stations, which consisted of the ISMT, a rock-climbing wall, memory skills games, Marine Corps Martial Arts Program demonstration, obstacle course and the moment of truth.

The ISMT was an important part of the day's event.

"It takes away the initial shock of getting familiar with the weapon for those who have never handled a weapon before," said Sergeant Maj. Jayme Winders, Recruiting Station Salt Lake City, sergeant Major. "Any time we can increase their comfort level handling an M-16, we should take full advantage of that."

Poolees learned the different carries and especially the safety of the weapons.

"Safe handling of the weapon is crucial for when they get to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot," said Winders.

According to Brock Budd, a poolee who joined the Marine Corps to be a good man for society, the pool function was a great event for him.

"This is my first pool function. It is good to get this competition and learn these things before we head to boot camp," he said.

The pool function was designed to provide a motivating and challenging event for the poolees.

"It is important to get all the kids who enlisted in Utah together, have some camaraderie, get better prepared for boot camp, and ultimately have a good time," said Maj. David Bradney, RS Salt Lake City commanding officer.



Photo by Sgt. T.L. Carter-Valrie

Marines demonstrated MCMAP techniques to poolees.

Sgt. T.L. Carter-Valrie

Recruiting Station Salt Lake City

FORT DOUGLAS, Utah — Recruiting Station Salt Lake City poolees got their chance to test their skills on the M-16 recently during a statewide pool function.

More than 100 poolees from all the Utah recruiting substations came together to get a taste of their marksmanship skills by visiting the Fort Douglas simulated marksmanship training.

Photos by Sgt. T.L. Carter-Valrie

(Top) Major David Bradney, RS Salt Lake City commanding officer, gives guidance to poolees testing their hand on the ISMT. **(Left)** A poolee puts on gear in preparation for the rock climbing wall.

Hometown Heroes



(Top) Corporal Phillip Orabuena, from Hollister, Calif., and Lance Cpl. Steven Villa, from Los Angeles, and Maj. Julie Schaeffer, from Sister Bay, Wis., take a group picture with students from the Al Ahid School in the town of Zawia, near Fallujah, Iraq March 27. The 3rd Civil Affairs Group, Detachment 2, Team 3, now attached to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment delivered 55 boxes of school supplies, toys and clothing donated by students from Gibraltar High School and community members from Fish Creek, Wis., to help the less fortunate in Iraq. Photo by Cpl. Mark Sixbey (Middle Right) As Marines in a Humvee from Battalion Landing Team 1st Bn., 2nd Marines provide security, Cpl. Vernon Place, of Yakima, Wash., a combat engineer with MEU Service Support Group 22, sweeps through an Iraqi field looking for improvised explosive device-making materials and weapons caches, Jan. 10. Photo by Cpl. Christopher S. Vega (Bottom Left) A Marine places a flag at the rifle and boots display in honor of Lance Cpl. Bunny Long, a 22-year-old from Modesto, Ca., who was killed in action March 10, 2006. Marines and sailors from Headquarters and Service Company, 2nd Battalion, 6th Marine Regiment gathered to pay their final respects to Long at Camp Baharia, Iraq. Photo by Lance Cpl. Christopher J. Zahn (Middle Left) Combat Cargo Cpl. Hieu Nguyen, a 24-year-old Fontana, Calif. native, guides Republic of Korea Marine Sgt. Hyun-Suck No and his K-55 155mm Self-Propelled Howitzer into its stowage place aboard the USS Essex (LHD 2) during the onload of ROK vehicles during the night of Mar. 25. Approximately 300 of the ROK Marines came aboard as part of Exercise Foal Eagle 2006, an exercise designed to strengthen the interoperability of the U.S. and ROK forces. Photo by Cpl. Will Lathrop

Educators make Vacaville recruiter honorary

Sgt. Christine C. Odom

Recruiting Station San Francisco

VACAVILLE, Calif. — In a small gathering at Will C. Wood High School in Vacaville, Calif., Enriqueta Newlin, principal, and members of her staff make local recruiter, Staff Sgt. Jose Bernal, an honorary Wildcat on Mar. 23.

After 32 months as the canvassing recruiter at Permanent Contact Station Vacaville, the Hollister, Calif., native leaves the streets for a stationary position as one of the Military Entrance Processing Station Marine liaisons.

"Jose has done wonderful things for the students here," said John Pierson, counselor in charge of the school career center. "He's given a lot of the young men from this school the means to become better people and move on to better things."

The new recruiter who will be taking Bernal's place is Sgt. Jose Lopez.

"[Sergeant] Lopez has some big shoes to fill, but I'm sure he'll do well," said Bernal of his protégé. "My only advice



Photo by Sgt. Christine C. Odom

Enriqueta Newlin, principal of Will C. Wood High School in Vacaville, Calif., and her staff make local recruiter Staff Sgt. Jose Bernal an honorary 'Wildcat' on Mar. 23.

to him is to keep working his schools and support them as much as they support him, and to always stay professional."

During his tour as a recruiter, Bernal has made more than 15 Wildcats into

Marines, and they have all thanked him for the opportunity he had given them.

"I'm going to miss a lot of things about being a recruiter, but it's time to let the next guy step up to the plate."



Marine receives Commandant's Trophy for performance at OCS

SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY, Calif. — Sgt. Damon W. Kroes accepts his portion of The Commandant's Trophy from Lt. Col. Frank R. Motley, 12th Marine Corps District Executive Officer, inside the office of San Diego State University President Stephen L. Weber. Kroes was the top performer in his Platoon Leaders Class (Seniors) at the Officer Candidate School in Quantico, Va., and received the highest average in physical fitness, leadership and academics. In addition to the award Kroes received, Motley bestowed the larger version of the traveling Commandant's Trophy to the SDSU president. It will remain at SDSU for the remainder of the academic year until it is returned to Quantico. Initiated in 1957, the trophy serves to recognize the role of academic institutions in developing those traits that are essential for selection with The Commandant's Trophy.

Photo by SSgt. Valerie A. Martinez

Library... from 4

"This is a step in the right direction," said Toni Wilson, assistant principal at Centennial. "I don't think a lot of our students have a cognitive understanding of the significance the sacrifice [Anderson] made. They don't truly understand the giving of life for a worthy cause."

Since the honoree was a Marine, Moskowitz invited the 1st Marine Division band to provide the ceremonial music for the ceremony, and recruiters from Recruiting Substation The City served as the color guard, presenting the Marine Corps flag and National Ensign in recognition of a fallen Leatherneck.

"When we do presentations we like for them to make a difference," said Staff Sgt. Espinoza, canvassing recruiter at RSS The City who is responsible for recruiting at Centennial. "Anderson is a perfect example to let [the students] know that there are people who go above and beyond no matter the challenge."

Though the ceremony was confined to a corner of the library due to inclement weather, limiting the number of students who were able to attend the event – the significance of a permanent, visible memorial to a hero who came from their neighborhood is important to developing pride in current and future students.

"I hope it will get them to think more about their own lives, and what they can be," Moskowitz said. "They will understand there are more important things in life than the type of cell phone or shoes they own."

Espinoza said he thinks the memorial to Anderson will also help with recruiting quality students at the school, since they will be regularly exposed to an example of a Centennial alumnus and Marine who gave the ultimate sacrifice to serve his county.

platoon only 20 meters from the enemy positions. As the firefight continued several of the men were wounded by the deadly enemy assault. Suddenly an enemy grenade landed in the midst of the Marines and rolled alongside Private First Class Anderson's head. Unhesitatingly and with complete disregard for his personal safety, he reached out, grasped the grenade, pulled it to his chest and curled around it as it went off. Although several Marines received shrapnel from the grenade, his body absorbed the major force of the explosion. In this singularly heroic act, Private First Class Anderson saved his comrades from serious injury and possible death. His personal heroism, extraordinary valor, and inspirational supreme self-sacrifice reflected great credit upon himself and the Marine Corps and upheld the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

S/Lyndon B. Johnson

PART 1 of a 4 PART SERIES **SemperToons Presents: How Easter Eggs get hard for Easter.**

The eggs come from all over the United States to YOKE Depot, CANDY EGGO. Where they meet their Senior Easter Egg Instructor "HARD BOIL".

His job, to get these ordinary eggs Hard Boiled and ready for coloring before Easter!

They arrive on the Depot EGG-SPRESS.



Scholarships... from 8

submitted to the board. The six applicants who received the scholarships were discovered by the following recruiters: Sgt Anthony Ramos of Recruiting Substation Bakersfield, Staff Sgt Elvis R. Leon of RSS Montebello, Sgt Anthony S. Parker of RSS Pasadena, Cpl Irvine R. Perez of RSS Van Nuys and Sgt Daniel Rincon also of RSS Van Nuys.

As RS Los Angeles looks ahead to the new school year, recruiters can prepare for the next board by being proactive in their schools.

March Figures

Top Recruiting Substations

RSS	APR	Contracts	%	Marine In Charge
Los Angeles				
Montebello	1.60	9	113	GySgt. O.A. Quintanilla
E. Los Angeles	1.00	2	67	SSgt. K. Avina
Orange County				
Upland	2.83	18	200	GySgt. G.M. Miller
Costa Mesa	2.67	8	200	GySgt. S.M. McGowan
Portland				
Salem	2.60	13	144	MSgt. M.K. Trammel
Milwaukie	2.80	7	140	GySgt. K.A. Robinson
Sacramento				
Fresno	1.50	11	122	GySgt. A. Villedalopez
Clovis	1.33	6	120	GySgt. D. Hudson
Salt Lake City				
Provo	2.20	11	137	SSgt. K.W. Casper
None Qualify				
San Diego				
Las Vegas	2.00	8	114	GySgt. A. Henry
Clairemont	2.00	4	400	SSgt. J.F. Parks
San Francisco				
Santa Rosa	2.25	12	150	GySgt. M. Shane
Salinas	2.00	5	100	SSgt. K. Wilkerson
Seattle				
Everett	2.00	10	100	MSgt. H.B. Sanchez
Spokane	3.30	10	167	GySgt. B.J. Flanagan

Promotions

MSgt. R.M. Thain SLC	SSgt. J.R. Everhart SLC
MSgt. R.D. Dikerson HQ	SSgt. C.A. Dubois PRT
MSgt. D.L. Jenkins SEA	Sgt. J.L. Walsh SAC
GySgt. C. Steele SAN	Sgt. M. Santamaria ORG
GySgt. G.C. Perez LAX	Sgt. J.N. Dickson SLC
GySgt. P. Romero Jr. ORG	Sgt. R.M. Anderson SLC
GySgt. K.E. King III PRT	Sgt. J.M. Peredes SLC
SSgt. O.B. Hadley ORG	Sgt. E.A. Gamez LAX
SSgt. P.E. Acevedo SLC	Cpl. D.J. Evans SLC
SSgt. H.Q. Huang ORG	Cpl. J.L. Haulman SEA
SSgt. G.L. Alcantar Jr. LAX	Lcpl. A.W. Ranson SEA
SSgt. F. Castrozamudio SLC	

Awards

SgtMaj. L.W. Benford MSM	SSgt. M.E. Kolek NAM	GySgt. R.S. Guiting NAM
Capt. S.C. Snee NCOM	Sgt. E.F. Arriaga NAM	Sgt. F.C. Williams Jr. NAM
Capt. M.R. Vanderbeek NCOM	GySgt. W.B. Cordero NAM	GySgt. M.J. Reilly NAM
CWO3 W.J. Strum NCOM	SSgt. W.E. Campbell NAM	Sgt. T.J. Pooler NAM
MSgt. S.D. Washington NCOM	SSgt. J. Gonzalez NAM	Sgt. R.A. Matthews CERTCOMM
GySgt. T.L. Bergner NCOM	SSgt. J.E. Granadocarbalaj NAM	GySgt. R.M. Thain CERTCOMM
MSgt. G.A. Finney NCOM	GySgt. R.E. Henslee NAM	Sgt. M.E. Lee CERTCOMM
GySgt. T.C. Prado NCOM	Sgt. O. Mapula Jr. NAM	Sgt. S.B. Brown CERTCOMM
SSgt. C.M. Harris NCOM	Sgt. T.L. Carter-Valrie NAM	RS Sacramento CERTCOMM
SSgt. M.H. Angulocota NAM	Sgt. R. Perezfernandez NAM	GySgt. C. Castro OVSM

Top Recruiters

	Contracts
ORG SSgt. M. Palos	9 – 450%
PRT SSgt. J.M. Cornejo Jr.	6 – 100%
SLC Sgt. W.S. Koelher	6 – 300%
SDO SSgt. L. O'quinn III	5 – 166%
SDO Sgt. D.T. Williams	5 – 166%
SFO SSgt. J. Ramos	4 – 133%
SFO SSgt. J. Moroney	4 – 133%
LAX Sgt. I.G. Lemus	4 – 200%
SEA Sgt. R.S. Go	4 – 200%
SAC Sgt. J.W. Furlong	3 – 100%

Heavy Hitters

	Contracts
ORG SSgt. M. Palos	9
SLC Sgt. W.S. Koehler	6
SLC Sgt. R.A. Matthews	5
ORG SSgt. E.F. Arriaga	5
ORG Sgt. N.G. Diaz	5
ORG SSgt. J.M. Chavez	5
PRT Sgt. N.L. Decavelle	5
PRT SSgt. B.R. Wier	5
ORG Sgt. C.B. McNeill	4
ORG Sgt. R.O. McCollum	4
ORG GySgt. S.L. Miller	4
SDO GySgt. D.L. Ramirez	4
SDO SSgt. M.W. Garrett	4
SAC SSgt. J.L. Purdy	4
SEA Sgt. C.J. Foster	4
PRT GySgt. K.E. King II	4
LAX Sgt. J. Sanchez	4
LAX Sgt. M.L. Alvarado Jr.	4
LAX Sgt. A.C. Estrada	4
SFO Sgt. F. Eduardo	3
SFO Sgt. I. Gray	3
SFO Sgt. J. Edmond	3
SFO SSgt. S. Bergeson	3
SFO SSgt. T. Sanford	3

